

Claim Listing:

1. (original) A fastener tab for an absorbent garment having longitudinally opposite waist regions when laid flat, the fastener tab comprising:
 - a first elastic region for attaching to one of the waist regions of the garment and having a first stretch resistance;
 - a dead zone adjacent to the first elastic region;
 - a second elastic region adjacent to the dead zone and having a second stretch resistance; and
 - a gripping zone attached to the second elastic region,wherein the dead zone has substantially more stretch resistance than the first and second elastic regions, and
the first stretch resistance is at least as great as the second stretch resistance.
2. (withdrawn) The tab of claim 1, wherein the first stretch resistance equals the second stretch resistance.
3. (original) The tab of claim 1, wherein dead zone is substantially rectangular in shape.
4. (original) The tab of claim 3, wherein a longitudinal direction of the fastener tab is defined as a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the garment, and
the dead zone is aligned such that a longitudinal axis of the rectangular shape is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the tab.
5. (withdrawn) The tab of claim 1, wherein the dead zone has a curved edge.

6. (original) The tab of claim 1, wherein the dead zone completely separates the first and second elastic regions.

7. (withdrawn) The tab of claim 1, wherein the dead zone comprises a plurality of dead zones.

8. (original) The tab of claim 1, wherein the fastener tab has a tab leg edge for positioning proximate a leg opening of the garment and a tab waist edge for positioning proximate a waist edge of the garment.

9. (withdrawn) The tab of claim 8, wherein the dead zone comprises two dead zones,
a first one of the two dead zones is positioned adjacent the tab leg edge,
and
a second one of the two dead zones is positioned adjacent the tab waist edge.

10. (withdrawn) A fastener tab for an absorbent garment having longitudinally opposite waist regions when laid flat, a longitudinal centerline of the fastener tab being in a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the garment, the fastener tab comprising:

a first elastic region having a first stretch resistance;
a dead zone adjacent to the first elastic region;
a second elastic region adjacent to the dead zone and having a second stretch resistance at least as great as the first stretch resistance; and
a gripping zone attached to one of the first and second elastic regions,
wherein the dead zone has substantially more stretch resistance than the first and second elastic regions,

the first elastic region is located mostly on a waist side of the longitudinal centerline of the tab, and

the second elastic region is located mostly on a leg side of the longitudinal centerline of the tab.

11. (withdrawn) The tab of claim 10, wherein a longitudinal direction of the dead zone is positioned diagonally relative to the longitudinal centerline of the tab.

12. (withdrawn) The tab of claim 10, wherein dead zone is substantially rectangular in shape.

13. (withdrawn) The tab of claim 10, wherein the dead zone has a curved edge.

14. (withdrawn) The tab of claim 10, wherein the dead zone completely separates the first and second elastic regions.

15. (withdrawn) The tab of claim 10, wherein the dead zone comprises a plurality of dead zones.

16. (withdrawn) A fastener tab for an absorbent garment having longitudinally opposite waist regions when laid flat, the fastener tab comprising:
an elastic region for attaching to the garment;
a gripping zone attached to the elastic region; and
a dead zone within the elastic region between the gripping zone and the garment,

wherein the elastic region has a uniform stretch resistance,
the elastic region has a primary stretch direction along which the elastic region is stretched when the tab is used, and

the dead zone has substantially more stretch resistance than the elastic region.

17. (withdrawn) The tab of claim 16, wherein a longitudinal direction of the dead zone and the primary stretch direction are non-parallel.

18. (withdrawn) The tab of claim 17, wherein the longitudinal direction of the dead zone is perpendicular to the primary stretch direction.

19. (withdrawn) The tab of claim 16, wherein the dead zone comprises a plurality of dead zones.

20. (withdrawn) The tab of claim 19, wherein the dead zone comprises two dead zones,

the two dead zones are located on opposite sides of a centerline of the tab, and

the centerline of the tab is parallel to the primary stretch direction.

21. (withdrawn) The tab of claim 20, wherein the two dead zones are located on opposite edges of the tab.

22. (original) A fastener tab for an absorbent garment having longitudinally opposite waist regions when laid flat, the fastener tab comprising:

a first elastic region for attaching to the garment;

a dead zone adjacent to the first elastic region;

a second elastic region adjacent to the dead zone; and

a gripping zone attached to the second elastic region,

wherein the dead zone has substantially more stretch resistance than the elastic region,

the elastic region has a primary stretch direction along which the elastic region is stretched when the tab is used,

the dead zone extends a first distance in a direction perpendicular to the primary stretch direction,

the tab extends a second distance in the direction perpendicular to the primary stretch direction, and

at all points along the primary stretch direction the first distance is less than the second distance.

23. (original) An absorbent garment having longitudinally opposite waist regions when laid flat, the absorbent garment comprising:

a chassis;

an absorbent core attached to the chassis; and

a fastener tab having

a first elastic region attached to one of the waist regions of the garment and having a first stretch resistance;

a dead zone adjacent to the first elastic region;

a second elastic region adjacent to the dead zone and having a second stretch resistance; and

a gripping zone attached to the second elastic region,

wherein the dead zone has substantially more stretch resistance than the first and second elastic regions, and

the first stretch resistance is at least as great as the second stretch resistance.